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RURAL DISTRICT OF
MARLBOROUGH and RAMSBURY

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1951



RURAL DISTRICT OF
MARLBOROUGH and RAMSBURY

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OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for the year 1951, on the public health of the District.

The population of the District as estimated by the Registrar General was 10990 in 1951; and the excess of births (172) over deaths (133) was 39, which gives a rate for natural increase of 3.5 per 1,000 population.

There were 172 (86 male and 86 female) births which gives a rate, per 1,000 population of 15.7 (16.9 per 1000 corrected for purposes of comparison). The birth rate for the administrative county during 1951 was 15.4 and that for England and Wales for the same period, 15.5 respectively, per 1000 population.

The death rate, based on 133 (63 males and 70 females) deaths gave a rate for 1951, for the District, of 12.1 (corrected for comparability, 10.5) per 1000. The England and Wales death rate was 12.5 and that for the administrative county, 11.3 per 1000 population for the same period. The death rate for infants under one year (infant mortality rate) was 17.4 per 1,000 live births during 1951; corresponding figures for the administrative county were 23.4, and for England and Wales 29.6 per 1,000 live births. There were actually only three such deaths—under one year of age. There was one infant death under 4 weeks of age.

Among the death rates for special causes, tuberculosis with 2 deaths gave a rate of 0.18 per 1000 population ; whereas pneumonia with 10 deaths gave a rate of 0.9 per 1000 population, and cancer with 23 deaths gives a still higher rate of 2.1 per 1000 population.

The proportional mortality rates for the principal causes of death were : heart and circulatory diseases, other than coronary disease 25.6 per cent ; cancer 17.3 per cent ; vascular lesions of the nervous system 11.3 per cent ; pneumonia and bronchitis 9.0 per cent, and tuberculosis 1.5 per cent. Coronary disease accounted for 12 per cent of the total deaths.

Notifications of infective diseases numbered 273 which include 129 notified measles, 92 cases of whooping cough and 18 cases of pneumonia. There were also 24 cases of dysentery and 1 notification of poliomyelitis (paralytic).

The *incidence rates* per 1,000 population for the principal *notifiable* diseases in the District during 1951 were as follows : measles 11.7 (England and Wales 14.07), whooping cough 8.4 (England and Wales 3.87), pneumonia 1.60 (England and Wales 0.99) and poliomyelitis (paralytic) 0.09 as compared with 0.03 for paralytic poliomyelitis in England and Wales. The incidence rate for dysentery notified in the Rural District during 1951 was 2.2 per 1,000 population.

The position in regard to diphtheria immunization at 31/12/51 was : about 48 per cent of children under 5 years of age completed primary immunization, and from ages 0—15 years, 86.5 per cent were protected against diphtheria.

Other relevant data are to be found in the body of this report which is followed by the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RODERICK MACKAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1952.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

K. F. HUDSON, M.S.I.A., A.R., SAN.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	94511
Number of Parishes	25
Population mid-1951, as estimated by the Registrar General	Total 10990
Number of inhabited houses	3202
Number of new houses erected in 1951 :—	
By Private Enterprise	11
By Local Authority	44
Rateable Value	£47300
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£190

VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	86	86	172
Legitimate	82	79	161
Illegitimate	4	7	11
Still Births	—	1	1
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate			16.9
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.5
Number of deaths from all causes	63	70	133
Death Rate			10.5
Death Rate for England and Wales			12.5
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total	—	3	3
Legitimate	—	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 live births			17.4
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales			29.6

NOTE :

The number of births, still-births, and deaths are those registered during 1951 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

*BIRTH RATE: INFANT DEATH RATE; TOTAL DEATH
RATE, etc.—1951*

	<i>Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	16.9	15.4	15.5
Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	10.5	11.3	12.5
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births)	17.4	23.4	29.6
Death Rates—Special Causes (per 1,000 pop.) :—			
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0.18	0.17	0.31
Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	0.03	—
Cancer	2.1	1.6	—
Pneumonia	0.9	0.5	0.61

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications of infectious disease for the year was 273, as compared with 134 in 1950. Measles accounted for 129 of them. There were 92 cases of whooping cough, and 18 of pneumonia. One case of poliomyelitis was notified. There were no deaths from this cause.

Twenty four cases of dysentery occurred in the District during 1951. Fourteen of these (8 adults and 6 children) were notified from Aldbourne; 2 adults and 1 child from Ramsbury; 3 adults and 3 children from Littlecote and one adult from Broad Hinton. Dysentery caused by *sonne* organisms has been noted to occur periodically in the Ramsbury—Aldbourne area since about 1945. A carrier was found in connection with the 14 cases which occurred at Ramsbury during 1950 (and again early in 1952 also in Ramsbury when a further outbreak of *sonne* dysentery occurred). As connections are made to the Ramsbury sewer the incidence of the disease will probably decrease, but no such prospect can be held out for Aldbourne where disposal of excreta is far from satisfactory, and for the control of bowel diseases conservancy must be adequate, and where this is impracticable as in the case of Aldbourne a sewerage system should be provided.

There were no deaths from infective disease, other than 2 from tuberculosis, during 1951, in the Rural District.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1951

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Typhoid & Parat. fevers				1									1
Scarlet Fever				1	1								2
Whooping Cough	13		2	2	3		9	27	15	4	12	5	92
Diphtheria			1				1						1
Pulmonary T.B.			1		1				2				5
Other forms of T.B.								1					1
Measles	3	45	32	38	2		2	6	1				129
Poliomyelitis													1
Pneumonia	8	3	2	1				1			1	2	18
Puerperal Pyrexia					1							1	2
Malaria					1								1
Dysentery	16	7										1	24
Food Poisoning								1					1
Abortus Fever					1								1
TOTAL	40	55	38	43	10		12	36	19	4	13	9	*279

* Includes six notifications of tuberculosis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1951

Disease	Total	Age (Years)												Unknown
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	1									1				
Scarlet Fever	2							1	1					
Whooping Cough	92	5	9	19	7	10	38	4						
Diphtheria	1	1												
Measles	129	3	5	9	7	10	64	23	4	2		2		
Poliomyelitis	1							1						
Pneumonia	18	1		3			1	1		2	1	4	3	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2								1	1				
Malaria	1									1				
Dysentery	24			1	1	1	7			6	2	4	2	
Food Poisoning	1								1					
Abortus Fever	1									1				
TOTALS	273	10	14	32	15	21	110	30	7	14	3	10	5	2

TUBERCULOSIS

Six new cases were added to the Register, 5 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. There were 2 deaths from tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION and VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department as Local Health Authority under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at welfare clinics, and at schools under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County Medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

The County Medical Officer's department notifies mothers when the infant is three months old, and Health Visitor 'follow up' acts as a further stimulus, and also to ascertain whether consent is withheld, and to supplement information about infants who may have been vaccinated but not recorded and so on. Birth notifications are used as a basis for conducting this enquiry, and the register is kept up to date by record cards returned by the family doctor, supplemented by the Health Visitors' enquiries.

Despite these comprehensive arrangements which work well enough in the case of diphtheria immunization, vaccination numbers remain low, due undoubtedly to antipathy in some cases, but probably mostly to lack of appreciation that smallpox is even a deadlier disease than diphtheria, and that only adequate immunization and vaccination can keep them both effectively in control.

Although the deaths from diphtheria have dropped from 934 in 1944 to about 34 in 1951 (and notifications have decreased in the same period from about 23000 to about 700) far too few children are being inoculated against this disease in the first years of life. Of the 172 children born in the Rural District during 1951 only 10 are recorded as having been protected against diphtheria in their first year of life and only about one half of the estimated child population under 5 years of age was inoculated in that age group.

Similarly with vaccination 91 infants under a year old or about 4 per cent of the child population under 15 were vaccinated in the District during 1951, and whereas the *total* proportion protected against diphtheria is reasonably high (86 per cent) those vaccinated under 15 years of age represent only 8 per cent of the total estimated child population under 15 years of age.

The medical staff stress the importance of these measures to parents on all possible occasions.

HOUSING

The work of the health department under this heading included investigations in connection with overcrowding and the allocation of housing accommodation. There have been in addition specific calls on the staff in connection with statutory work under the Housing Act and home visits in connection with infective disease investigations. In common with other localities sub-standard housing has continued in use for want of adequate accommodation and the supervision of unsatisfactory housing has been a prominent feature of the departmental work also during 1951.

WATER SUPPLY

The chlorinated public supplies at Baydon, Aldbourne and Great Bedwyn and Little Bedwyn are adequate in quality and quantity.

The additional public supplies at Ramsbury, Chilton Foliat, Ogbourne St. George, Ogbourne St. Andrew and Avebury are also satisfactory.

Private supplies throughout the District give less consistently satisfactory results on analysis ; these are generally not chlorinated.

SEWERAGE

A sewerage system exists at Ramsbury and representations to the Ministry are in progress in regard to a sewerage system at Aldbourne.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There were no major outbreaks of serious bowel disease that could be traced to food contamination throughout the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH—1951

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN

					M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	2	—	2
2	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—	—
6	Menningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—	—
8	Measles	..	..	..	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	2	1	3
11	„ „ lung, bronchus	..	..	..	1	1	2
12	„ „ breast	..	..	..	—	3	3
13	„ „ uterus	..	..	..	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	6	8	14
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	..	..	..	6	9	15
18	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	10	6	16
19	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	—	3	3
20	Other heart disease	..	..	..	12	15	27
21	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	2	2	4
22	Influenza	..	..	..	2	2	4
23	Pneumonia	..	..	..	4	6	10
24	Bronchitis	..	..	..	1	1	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	1	2	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	2	—	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	1	—	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	1	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	—	1	1
32	Other defined and illdefined diseases	..	..	..	2	8	10
33	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	4	1	5
34	All other accidents	..	..	..	1	—	1
35	Suicide	..	..	..	1	—	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total all causes					63	70	133

RURAL DISTRICT OF
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FOR THE YEAR

1951

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report on the work carried out by my department during 1951 which has been kept as brief as possible.

The help and assistance rendered by other members of the staff over the past year has been appreciated.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH F. HUDSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

The following is a table of new houses erected during the year :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Council Houses</i>	<i>Private Houses</i>
Aldbourne	16	—
Baydon	4	—
Berwick Bassett	—	2
Chilton Foliat	—	1
Fyfield	—	1
Ogbourne St. Andrew	—	4
Ramsbury	20	3
West Overton	4	—
TOTAL	44	11

The number of Council Houses completed during the year was on the high side, but, as only 12 were erected during 1950 this gives the usual average.

A table such as this does not give an entirely correct picture for any one year, as it only shows the number of houses completed, not those started or in the course of erection.

The number of private houses erected was not very high but an improvement will be made in the next report.

During 1951 3 cottages on which Demolition Orders were operative were demolished but no new Demolition Orders were made.

In 1951 two houses were inspected for the Housing Survey making a total of 307 since the survey was started.

WATER SUPPLIES

There are at present four piped Public Water Supplies in the district as follows :—

- (a) Baydon. (Water supplied by the Hungerford Rural District Council).
- (b) Aldbourne, Ramsbury and Chilton Foliat.
- (c) Great Bedwyn and Little Bedwyn.
- (b) Ogbourne Saint Andrew and Ogbourne Saint George. (Water supplied by the Borough of Swindon).

The following is a table of the properties and population supplied by the Public Water Supplies :—

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>Direct to Houses</i>		<i>By means of Standpipes</i>	
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Baydon	70	210	—	—
Little Bedwyn	44	132	15	45
Great Bedwyn	210	630	—	—
Aldbourne	291	873	—	—
Chilton Foliat	55	165	—	—
Ramsbury	313	939	—	—
Ogbourne Saint Andrew	39	117	—	—
Ogbourne Saint George	45	135	—	—
TOTALS	1067	3201	15	45

These supplies are adequate in quantity and quality.

The water is chlorinated at Ramsbury Pumping Station, Bedwyn Pumping Station, at the Works supplying the water to the tower at Baydon and the Reservoir at Ogbourne St. George.

The water for the Ogbourne Water Supply is obtained from the Pumping Station at Whitefields in the Parish of Ogbourne St. George, but is the property of the Swindon Corporation. The Corporation pump the water and it is boosted to the Reservoir on the high ground at Ogbourne St. George.

Samples for bacteriological examination were taken at various points on the mains and at the Pumping Stations during the year and the results are as shown below :—

<i>Supply</i>	<i>No.Samples Taken</i>	<i>No.Samples Satisfactory</i>	<i>No.Samples slightly un- satisfactory</i>	<i>No.Samples Not Satis- factory</i>
Baydon	9	8	1	—
Great Bedwyn	16	14	2	—
Ramsbury and Aldbourn	11	11	—	—
Ogbourne St. George and Ogbourne St. Andrew	8	8	—	—
TOTALS	44	41	3	—

It will be seen that from the total of 44 samples taken from the Public Supplies only three were slightly unsatisfactory. This I think is a very satisfactory result.

Four samples of water were taken from the supplies to Council Houses other than those on the Public Mains and necessary action was taken to those supplies which were not satisfactory.

As the water supply in this area is practically all from chalk there is no risk of any plumbo-solvent action.

The water supplies to other parishes in the district are private piped supplies to estates and farms and adjoining cottages ; wells to individual properties ; or wells shared by a number of houses. In a number of cases farmers supply water to parts of the adjoining villages. In several parishes, especially during the summer months, there is a tendency for some of the wells to dry up entirely and others to be very low.

Substantial progress has been made on the scheme to supply water to the parishes of Preshute, Fyfield, West Overton, East Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton. The majority of the mains being laid before the end of the year. It is proposed to connect up the properties during the next year when it is hoped that the scheme will be in operation. The completion of this water scheme will be of great value as there has been a tendency in the past for water to be very short during the summer months.

Bacteriological samples were taken from various private supplies during the course of the year and where necessary advice was given as to how the quality of the supply could be improved, and with the extension of the public schemes and piped farm supplies there is no doubt that the majority of the existing wells will become disused.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE

In May the Public Sewerage Scheme at Ramsbury came into operation after some considerable difficulties had been overcome.

The Council have connected all the Council Houses to the sewer and quite a good start was made by private individuals with their premises. These connections were made practically entirely by owner occupiers and it will be necessary to press owners of other properties to take advantage of the sewer if they do not make the connections voluntarily.

The Council continue to emphasize the case for a sewerage scheme at Aldbourne and consider the necessity for one is every bit as great as that for Ramsbury. There is no doubt that conditions in Aldbourne are as bad if not worse than Ramsbury was before the sewerage was provided.

The Ministry agreed that the outfall works at Ramsbury should be duplicated so that they would take sewerage from Aldbourne. This work has been carried out.

The provision of drainage schemes to individual houses and cottages continues, especially in the case of farm cottages. This type of work is to be commended as it provides greater amenities to the rural cottages.

The provision of piped water supplies obviously creates a greater necessity for drainage in the villages.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour consisting of a 10 cubic yard freighter and three men. Disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit, which is ideal for the purpose.

Two men are continuously engaged in the collection of refuse while the other man divides his time between working at the Tip to keep it tidy and level and at the depot baling waste paper.

There is a fortnightly collection to the ten most populated parishes and the rest receive a collection every four weeks.

With the continuous erection of new houses the schedule as originally planned has become stretched and it may be necessary to re-arrange the rounds.

As stated before the provision of a suitably constructed dustbin with a tight fitting lid and handles to all properties would materially assist in the collection of house refuse. It is much simpler for the men to empty one container rather than empty several buckets, boxes, etc. The saving of time would be appreciable over the day.

SALVAGE COLLECTION and DISPOSAL

The collection of salvage by the Council continues and it can easily be seen that it is a source of revenue. The price received for waste paper was higher during 1951 than it had ever been before, which is the reason for the increase in the total revenue obtained.

The weight of materials was slightly lower than last year and in the case of paper this was due to private firms calling at households and purchasing waste paper from householders.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the salvage sold for the years 1950 and 1951.

	1950						1951					
	<i>Weight</i> <i>T C Q</i>			<i>Value</i> <i>£ s. d.</i>			<i>Weight</i> <i>T C Q</i>			<i>Value</i> <i>£ s. d.</i>		
Paper	47	0	0	190	6	10	41	15	1	605	19	2
Rags	1	10	2	22	16	6	1	6	1	48	5	8
Scrap Iron	6	0	0	13	8	6	7	0	3	20	9	2
TOTALS	54	10	2	226	11	10	50	1	5	674	14	0

RATS and MICE DESTRUCTION

In the early part of the year it was found that the increased responsibilities that came with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the sharing of the Rodent Operator with the adjoining districts was not satisfactory. In April, therefore, the Council appointed a full time operator who had not only to carry out inspections and destruction of rats and mice at households but to inspect all farm premises. This was a good step forward and enabled the work of both inspection and destruction to be carried on more quickly.

Over the year 939 premises were inspected for the presence of rats or mice of which 248 were found to be infested. Satisfactory treatments of these premises were carried out. Such disinfestation is in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recommendation. There are no major infestations in this district.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Periodical inspections were made to various factories in the district, attention being paid to ventilation of the premises, and adequate sanitary accommodation being provided.

There are no large factories in the area. The majority consists of small business premises such as bakehouses, garages, etc.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLIES.

There are ten individual registrations under the various milk regulations and inspections are made to these premises from time to time.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 :—

- 7 Licences for retailing Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 3 Licences for retailing Pasteurised Milk.

BAKEHOUSES.

In this Council's area there are 16 bakehouses, situated in the following parishes :—

Aldbourne	..	..	..	..	5
Avebury ..	..	..	..	..	1
Broad Hinton	..	..	..	..	1
Chilton Foliat	..	..	..	..	1
Grafton ..	..	..	..	..	1
Great Bedwyn	..	..	..	..	1
Ham ..	..	..	..	..	1
Ogbourne St. Andrew	..	..	..	..	1
Ramsbury	..	..	..	..	2
Shalbourne	..	..	..	..	1
West Overton	..	..	..	..	1

Regular visits are made to these bakehouses and informal notices, where necessary, are served on the occupiers calling for them to comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1936.

ICE-CREAM PREMISES.

There are 24 premises who retail ice-cream in this district. All the ice-cream is manufactured outside the area and sold from refrigerators practically all in a prepacked state.

The selling of ice-cream in a prepacked state is the cleanest way of handling this food.

OTHER FOODS.

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Food</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Cheese	8	Mouldy
Tinned Foods—Various	24	Blown and pierced

No Slaughterhouses have been operating in this district since 1939 and slaughtering is now centralised in Government controlled Slaughterhouses.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1951

Nuisances, including complaints	..	..	..	199
Housing Inspections ..	..	..	..	19
Milk and Dairies Premises ..	..	..	..	14
Food Premises .. ..	..	..	..	58
Bakehouse Inspections ..	..	..	..	19
Butchers Shop Inspections ..	..	..	..	16
Refuse Collection and Salvage ..	..	..	..	51
Tents, Vans and Sheds ..	..	..	..	12
Inspection of New Buildings ..	..	..	..	182
Inspection of New Drainage ..	..	..	..	265
Infectious Diseases .. ..	..	..	..	37
Factory Inspections .. .	..	..	..	10
Water Analysis and Sampling ..	..	..	..	89
Petroleum Inspections ..	..	..	..	16
Council House Enquiries ..	..	..	..	51
Ramsbury Drainage ..	..	..	..	45
Town Planning ..	..	..	..	133
Unclassified ..	..	..	..	52
Rats and Mice ..	..	..	..	8
TOTAL ..				1276

*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd.,
Marlborough.*